





## NSU Choir sings in the Big Apple

**D**r. Burt Allen would definitely say music is a small world. Especially when you consider how the Chamber Choir he directs at Northwestern State University ended up performing at Carnegie Hall on Palm Sunday.

"I've gotten to know so many people through this line of work and it just so happened I knew one of the employees of Mid-America Productions in New York who sponsored and arranged the March 23rd event. He called me and asked if I would be interested in conducting on Palm Sunday," said Allen.

The production company booked Allen and another conductor but it turned out that only Allen's event generated enough interest to warrant an invitation to perform. During a follow up phone conversation, Dr. Allen expressed an interest to the company in having the Northwestern Chamber Choir perform in a solo capacity. The company bought the idea.

The three-part program featured The New York Youth Honors Orchestra, The New England Symphonic Ensemble and combined choirs from Louisiana, Texas, Wisconsin, Colorado, and New Mexico, plus The NSU Chamber Choir. Allen guest conducted the New England Symphonic Ensemble, which was made up of 250 voices. He conducted his own choir, while his wife, Christine Allen, a member of NSU's faculty, served as piano accompanist. Arrangements included three evening songs by Johannes Brahms, three pieces by American composers Michael Larkin, Albert Lee Carr and Norman Dello Joio plus an



arrangement by Allen and one by Eugene T. Simpson.

"This was a great way to gain exposure," said Allen. "It took somebody twisting my arm to do it, but I am really glad we did. I know people who came to the concert are probably saying 'I didn't know Louisiana had anything like that'."

The choir is composed of 32 members, 95 percent of whom are undergraduates and who almost entirely are music majors. Allen says many of the students in the music program enrolled at NSU because of the outstanding reputation the Chamber Choir has established. "That reputation has been built over a period of years and I believe it is a direct result of the quality of performance the choir gives when they appear in public," said Allen.

Students are selected to be in the choir by audition. Allen says generally there are 70 students who audition for approximately 32 spots each year. The choir performs at conventions, all-state choir events, in recital series, during tours of Louisiana and Texas and at other local functions.

Allen founded the choir in 1987 and has served as director since it began. "The primary idea behind the choir was to give those students who were capable of performing on an advanced level a more professional setting to do so," said Allen. "Secondly, the amount of music that is written for small choirs is amazing and we wanted to give our students exposure to a large variety of music." The choir sings everything from Renaissance to 20th century music.



Northwestern State University  
A Member of the University of Louisiana System  
Natchitoches, Louisiana

# Alumni C O L U M N S Magazine

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**Dr. Randall J. Webb, President**  
Northwestern State University

**A**s president of Northwestern, my goal is to seek excellence in all areas, including our athletic program. We want our alumni to be proud of our student-athletes for what they accomplish, both on the field and off the field.

Athletic Director Greg Burke and I have focused on goals that underscore our commitment to a balance of academic and athletic success. This season, we want the football team to win the Southland Football League. By the 1998-99 academic year, we want Northwestern to win the Southland Conference All-Sports Trophy, have each team attain a grade point average of at least 2.5, and achieve a high graduation rate for our student-athletes.

In reviewing the past season, we have had a good measure of success. Our baseball program continues to excel, winning the Louisiana division of the Southland Conference.

The women's cross country team had its best season ever, finishing second in the SLC. We turned in strong performances in football and women's tennis. The football team finished third in the Southland Football League and ended the year with a stirring win over nationally-ranked Stephen F. Austin that received attention across the country. Our women's tennis team was also third in the conference, turning in a strong performance at the conference tournament which Northwestern hosted. Both the women's and men's track teams had good seasons, with the women finishing third in the conference and the men finishing fourth.

The biggest turnarounds came in softball and men's basketball, where both squads rebounded from last season to finish in the top half of the conference standings. One of the highlights of the season for the softball team was an 8-0 home win over nationally-ranked Louisiana Tech. Following a rebuilding year in women's basketball, there's no doubt that we will be back near the top of the conference next season.

We are especially proud of those student-athletes who make all-academic teams that honor achievement on the field and in the classroom. In fact, NSU's student-athletes compiled an all-time high cumulative grade point average of 2.72 for the Fall 1996 semester. Also a record 85 student-athletes were named to the Dean's List.

Athletics is an important part of the university, and through its successes brings invaluable recognition to the university. If possible, I encourage you to attend Northwestern athletic events, support the NSU Athletic Association, and notify our coaches about prospective student-athletes. Each of you can make a positive difference in our athletic program and in your alma mater.



**Elise P. James, Director**  
Alumni Development

**A**s you read this issue of the Alumni Columns, summer will have settled in on campus. Students will be attending summer school, but will also be included in summer sports—canoeing, softball, swimming, sunning, etc.

I want to talk to you about an Alumni program that we started about ten years ago. It involves the class that graduated 50 years ago. This year, of course, is 1947 and we dedicate this year to those 50 year graduates.

We start by awarding these graduates a second diploma at the spring graduation. A reception is held the afternoon of graduation for all returning for the event. At graduation, they march into Prather Coliseum in front of the 1997 graduating class and during the ceremony they receive their second diploma from Dr. Randall Webb, President of Northwestern.

Once again, these distinguished graduates are honored at Homecoming with a reception and are presented at the Alumni Luncheon and recognized at the afternoon ball game.

In late fall, they are now eligible to become members of the 50+ Club and are invited to a reception and luncheon to honor that group.

We feel all these events are important, because these graduates are vital to the continued growth of Northwestern. By their accomplishments and examples of the success in their lives, we can encourage students to come to Northwestern and receive the same wonderful education that they did. Alumni are our best recruiters and will always be.

This past spring, graduation stories from the class of 1947, included an interview with Mary Lee Sigler Posey. In her interview, 50 years after she earned her degree, the memories of her college experiences still burn bright. Posey, who lives in Natchitoches, said, "We only had about 110 students in the senior class, so we were really close." The department and classes were small, so a close, personal relationship developed between students and faculty. Dr. Joe Farrar was seen walking around the campus talking to students. We have that same atmosphere now with our new President, Dr. Webb. He is a student oriented person and will be successful because of it.

We hope that the celebrations in 1997 will show the class of 1947 just how much we love and respect them and that they enjoy every minute of their "time in the sun!"

## CONTENTS

ALUMNI EVENTS.....page 7

CAMPUS NEWS .....page 3

PROFILES & CLASS NOTES.....page 8

## NSU's Family Nursing Practitioner Program has Rural Emphasis

**D**r. Wanda Thompson knows first hand about growing pains. As coordinator of Northwestern State University's Family Nurse Practitioner Program, she has seen the program at NSU's Shreveport campus grow from 10 students when it began in the spring of 1993, to 52 the following fall.

"There is a great demand for this program because so many nurses want to do this," said Thompson. "Personally, as soon as I entered my nursing practitioner program I felt like it was what I had wanted to do all my life and I think that's how many nurses here feel."

A nurse practitioner is a registered nurse who has advanced education and clinical training in a health care specialty area. NSU's program challenges the students to develop an advanced practice role in critical decision making and logical thinking and reasoning through advanced knowledge, skills and clinical application and requires completion of 39 semester credit hours. The graduate program is accredited by the National League for Nursing, as are the associate and baccalaureate degree programs.

Once a student has been accepted as a graduate or post graduate student at NSU, and as a graduate student in the College of Nursing, the student wishing to continue in the Nurse Practitioner track must compete for clinical placement in one area. The scores are standardized and selection is based on the highest achievers. The selection process is scheduled for May and June of each year.

"Our program has a rural focus," said Thompson. "We encourage our nurses to seek jobs in places where they are lacking in medical expertise like in the rural sites. That was not so when the

Nurse Practitioner Program started. People worked in urban areas."

Thompson says research capabilities are also a strong focus of the program. "The students do a major research project before they can graduate. They have to show research throughout all of the course work. Research helps a nurse in their practice because it gives validation for practice."

"I tell my nurses that legally it's an awesome responsibility to be in this field," said Thompson. "I tell them they are now legally responsible for that consumer which not only involves medical management, but teaching and counseling. Our graduates are prepared to do medical management in minor acute illnesses and to follow chronic conditions. Add to that teaching and counseling and you get an idea of the responsibility. Collaboration is essential in the healthcare arena in today's world. It takes a team of professionals to manage the health of today's population."

One of the biggest changes Thompson has seen in nursing are the archaic customs that once existed that are now extinct. "When I was a student nurse in Chattanooga, we stood up when doctors walked to their desks. Now, nurses are an important factor in the team and well respected. We certainly have come a long way."

For more information or admission requirements to any of the four nursing programs call Thompson at (318) 677-3079 or Dr. Norann Planchock at (318) 677-3100.

**ABOUT THE COVER ILLUSTRATION :** Known as the earliest and perhaps first truly professional architect in Shreveport, N.S. Allen left his distinctive mark on over 30 local residences and public and commercial buildings including the old Line Avenue School which was renovated and became a part of Northwestern's 44,000 square-foot complex that houses the Nursing Program in Shreveport.

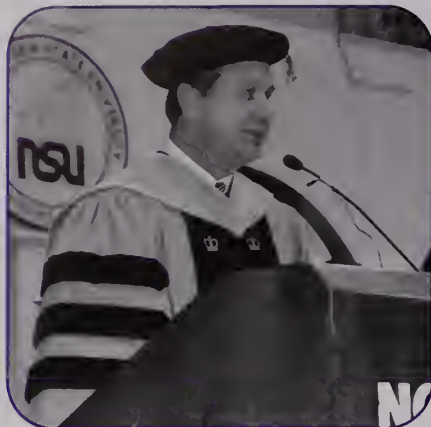
The massive brick walls and arched windows and doors is typical of the Richardson Romanesque style that Allen excelled in. Today, everything that Allen did in this style is gone except the nursing building that is located on the corner of Line Avenue and Wichita.

The school originally known as Texarkana Annex, was completed in November 1905. It was first used for a citywide assembly marking the opening of the 1906 school year.

Allen was a Major in the Civil War. His name appears in the city directory published in 1875, where he is listed under the heading "Sign Painters and Decorators." By 1889, he had been granted the prestigious honorary title of "Fellow of the American Institute of Architects." He continued working in Shreveport as well as out of town until his retirement in 1912.

The building was added to the National Register of Historic Places on June 3, 1981.





Commissioner of Higher Education Dr. E. Joseph Savoie encouraged graduates at Northwestern to stay in Louisiana and help improve it in his address to graduates at NSU's spring commencement exercises. A standing-room only crowd saw a spring commencement record 606 students earn degrees.

"Many people take great joy in criticizing Louisiana - and frankly I've had

enough of it," said Savoie. "This is a beautiful state with wonderful people. Louisiana is a multi-cultural tapestry made up of French, Spanish, English, Italian, German, African-Americans, Native Americans, Asians, people from all over the world living together in a relatively balanced mixture of cultures. We have no significant ethnic majority, and that makes us different from almost anywhere else in America."

Savoie said those differences are one of Louisiana's strengths.

"All it takes is respect for one another," he said. "Looking into your faces, I can see that our best years are ahead."

In his remarks, Savoie singled out six graduates and encouraged them to make a difference. Accounting and business administration graduate Elizabeth Vinson, Anna Pizza from the Louisiana Scholars' College, education graduate Jonathan Gauthier, English major Sherry Talton, mathematics major Lane Norwood and nursing major Derek Mackey were called upon by Savoie to play a role in improving their communities.

## The College of Business has achieved AACSB accreditation

The College of Business has achieved accreditation from the American Assembly of Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB), the primary accrediting agency and service organization for business schools in the United States.

The accreditation covers baccalaureate degree programs in business offered by Northwestern.

Approximately 1,200 colleges and universities in the United States offer undergraduate business degrees, but only 335 are accredited by the AACSB.

To achieve accreditation, business programs must satisfy the expectations of a wide range of quality standards related to curriculum, faculty resources, admissions, degree requirements, library and computer facilities, financial resources and intellectual climate that are all mission-linked. During the accreditation process, NSU was visited by a peer-review team of business school deans, accounting educators and corporate representatives with detailed knowledge of management education, applying standards widely accepted in the education community.

"I am especially pleased for faculty and students that AACSB has granted full accreditation to Northwestern's baccalaureate programs in business," said Northwestern President Dr. Randall J. Webb. "One of my goals as president is to gain accreditation for all academic programs for which specialized accreditation exists.

This is a major step in that direction."

In its report, the AACSB peer review team commended the College of Business for its: faculty dedication to providing individual attention to individual students and advisees; major contribution to the economic development of the region through the Small Business Development Center; well-attended J. Walter Porter Forum; committed Business Advisory Council and outstanding Phi Beta Lambda Chapter.

The College of Business was also commended for a positive assessment of faculty by students. Webb was also commended for his "decisive action to provide appropriately impressive facilities."

## Class of 1952 establishes a library fund

Northwestern State's graduating class of 1952 is heading an effort to assist the university's library obtain up-to-date microfilm readers. The current readers are quite old and require frequent repairs. Students, faculty, staff and researchers using the library rely on the readers to help them access newspapers, periodicals and journals stored on microfiche.

New machines cost about \$7,500 each. Ronald C. Martin, a Natchitoches attorney who is a member of the class of 1952, learned about the library's need for new microfiche readers through a column in the Natchitoches Times by faculty member Neill Cameron and decided to do something about it.

Martin donated \$100 to establish the "Class of '52 Library Fund" at the NSU Foundation. Martin challenged other members of his graduating class to join together to assist the library and NSU.

## Wise is honored by Knights of Columbus

Maj. Gen. Erbon



W. Wise of Sulphur, a 1941 graduate of Northwestern, has been named as "Diocese of Lake Charles Citizen of the Year" by the Msgr. Cramers Assembly, Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus in Lake Charles.

Gen. Wise is the publisher of eight Southwest Louisiana newspapers including the Beauregard Daily News, Southwest Daily News, Leesville Daily Leader, Westlake News, Vinton News, Iowa News, Moss Bluff News and Rosepine News. He also contracts to produce the Fort Polk Guardian.

The honor was presented to Gen. Wise in recognition of his long-time service to U.S. armed forces and to the Southwest Louisiana civic community. Northwestern honored Gen. Wise in 1990 as one of the charter inductees into the NSU Hall of Distinction, the Long Purple Line.

After graduating from Northwestern, he entered the Army Air Corps, and participated in four campaigns in the European Theater including the Normandy landing at Utah Beach and the liberation of Paris. He served in all ranks from private to commissioned officer.

Remaining in the armed forces reserves, he was promoted to major general in the Army in 1967 and retired in 1969.

Gen. Wise is the author of 15 books on journalism, local history and genealogy. In 1991, Gen. and Mrs. Marie Wise established the Erbon and Marie Wise Education Trust to fund advanced study in newspaper-related fields.



The NSU Retiree's first-ever dutch treat luncheon, held Monday, May 19 at Just Friends Restaurant in Natchitoches, gave old acquaintances a chance to reunite and new friends the opportunity to learn more about one another. Around 100 retirees gathered for the event which was organized by Director of Alumni Development Elise James and NSU Retirees Chairman Melissa Peveto.

"We were so very pleased with the spectacular turnout," said James. "This goes to show that so many of our retirees still want a reason to be affiliated with Northwestern. I feel like this luncheon will be the first of many to come."

The luncheon began with an address by NSU President Dr. Randall J. Webb (pictured above) who said how delighted he was at the attendance. He urged the group to make known to him their concerns as retirees and to always know how important they are to NSU.

Dr. Millard Bienvenu, a retired sociology professor, spoke on behalf of the NSU Retirees committee. Also welcoming the retirees were James and Peveto.

Retirees were presented a benefits package from the university which included free photo identification cards, information on services they are entitled to plus NSU paraphernalia.

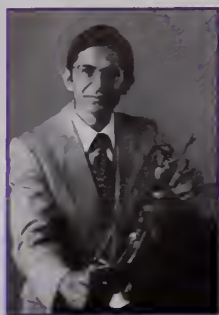
If you or someone you know is a retiree and not currently associated with the group, please call Peveto at (318) 357-6466 or James at (318) 357-4414. The group's next luncheon will be held in the fall.

## 25th anniversary is planned

The Iota Mu Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority and the Theta Delta Chapter of Omega Psi Phi at Northwestern State University are planning their 25th anniversary reunion July 11-13 at NSU.

Members of both organizations should have been contacted with information on the reunion. If you have not been contacted or know a member of the organization who should receive information, contact Brenda Fowler at (318) 352-2970 or Lillian Priest at 631-7300.





**G**alindo Rodriguez, an assistant professor of music at NSU, has been invited to perform in London and Gothenborg, Sweden as a member of an American Baroque Trumpet Ensemble. The concert in Gothenborg will be during the conference of the International Trumpet

Guild on August 6. The London concert will be a collaborative effort between the American Baroque Trumpet Ensemble and the Florida State University Baroque Trumpet Ensemble. A separate program will be performed on historical instruments with ensembles from the Norwegian State Academy of Music and Gothenborg University. In addition, Rodriguez has received an invitation to perform with the Festival of Trumpets during one of the final programs of the annual conference.

## Gary Reasons is inducted into the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame

**G**ary Reasons' knack for finding the football was truly remarkable. It helped him become a three-time All-American, the first in NCAA Division I-AA history, during his college career at Northwestern from 1981-83.

It led to a nine-year pro football career. Reasons won two Super Bowl championship rings during eight seasons with the New York Giants, as part of one of the most vaunted linebacking corps in NFL history.

Those accomplishments have earned him election, in his first year on the ballot, to the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame. He was among eight 1997 inductees, including LSU and New Orleans Saints standout Dalton Hilliard, honored in Natchitoches on Saturday, July 12.

Reasons' ability to be in the right place at the right time and make the right play continues to serve him well today.

Reasons is owner-operator of Gametime Inc., which supplies amusement machines to restaurants, clubs and arcades in the Greater Houston area.

He moonlights during the fall as a college football analyst for ABC Sports. Reasons is looking forward to his fourth season as a color commentator and sideline reporter for ABC Television.

Family, however, is foremost on his priority list. Married for 13 years to his college sweetheart, the former

Terri Matthews of Natchitoches, Gary is the proud father of three children — Nicholas (12), Randi (9) and Lacy (7).

"I manage to stay pretty busy," he says, laughing.

A 1984 honors graduate of Northwestern with a business administration degree, Reasons is putting his college education to good use, he says. Make no mistake about it — amusement games are a hotly competitive, constantly evolving industry.

"Since 1993, I have amassed a fairly extensive knowledge of the total operations and design qualities of this industry," says Reasons. "I know what it takes to get the job done."

This also means he's a ringer in the arcade. If you happen to run across Reasons playing Ms. Pac Man, it might not be a fair match.

"OK, I'll play left-handed," he deadpans.

His involvement in the television business has kept him close to football. His most recent assignment was as sideline reporter at the Blue-Gray All-Star Classic on Christmas Day, one of a dozen games he worked last year for ABC.

He has worked games in every major conference in the country, starting with his debut in 1994 on the sideline in front of 105,000 fans as Michigan played host to Boston College. Still, he keeps close tabs on his Demons.

After working for ABC at an afternoon game at Baylor last Nov. 9, Reasons took a private plane to Natchitoches for the NSU-Troy State game. He participated in a halftime ceremony honoring his 1996 induction in the College Football Hall of Fame, sat in on the Demon Sports Network radio broadcast as guest analyst in the third quarter, and visited with friends and family throughout the stadium.

He is looking forward to a more relaxed visit for this summer's Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame inductions.

"Natchitoches is like a second home to us. From Terri's folks, George and Rose Matthews, to the friends galore we have in Natchitoches and the Northwestern community, it's always fun to get back there and see as many people as possible," says Reasons. "Everyone I've met through the years there has truly been a big part of my life. I've been educated, inspired and encouraged by so many people that I wouldn't dare to try to list them all.

"I hope they realize to some extent what they've meant to me," he says. "This honor is truly unique and I'm very, very pleased to have the opportunity to enjoy it with so many friends in Natchitoches."

For information on the July 11-12 induction activities, highlighted by the Hall of Fame banquet July 12, call 318-357-6467.





## Military Science Program commissions record number of graduates

Let Col. James Forlenzo sometimes jokingly refers to Northwestern State University as the "West Point of the South." That designation may not be so far-fetched. During the 1996-97 academic year, NSU commissioned a record 21 ROTC cadets as officers in the U.S. Army. Two other cadets at LSU at Shreveport were also be commissioned. The program at LSUS is overseen by Northwestern's Department of Military Science.

"We have exceeded our expectations in the number of cadets that will be commissioned," said Forlenzo, who is head of the Department of Military Science and a professor of military science at NSU. "We were asked to commission 15 cadets, that number was raised to 17 and that number was exceeded."

Forlenzo says Northwestern's program has grown over the last several years because of strong support from former NSU President Dr. Robert A. Alost and current President Dr. Randall J. Webb. Forlenzo also credited the Office of Admissions and Recruiting under Director of Enrollment Services Chris Maggio for helping to attract solid students.

Northwestern provides an "ROTC Plus Package" for all ROTC scholarship winners. The package currently provides \$1,040 per semester while the ROTC scholarship, is in effect, provided in the form of a stipend, paid by the university to the cadet and designed to defray the cost of room and board.

NSU's ROTC program currently has 10 guaranteed slots into nursing clinicals that are not limited to scholarship recipients. The slots are guaranteed as part of the Partnership in Nursing Education program set up between the Army and Northwestern's College of Nursing.

"Another advantage we have is that this is an area of intense patriotism," said Forlenzo. "Because of our proximity to Fort Polk and Barksdale Air Force Base, there is a great deal of support for the armed services, and that makes it easier to attract students."



Northwestern alumni Bryant Lewis, Audra Allen and June Coltharp are shown looking over a past issue of the Northwestern yearbook, the *Potpourri*, at alumni party held in Haynesville. Lewis assisted the NSU Alumni Association by paying for the food served at the party. Approximately 50 friends and supporters attended the party held in the hometown of NSU President Dr. Randall J. Webb



Northwestern State University President Dr. Randall J. Webb and his wife Brenda have made a \$10,000 donation to the NSU Foundation to establish the Joe W. and Narvis Almand Webb Scholarship at Northwestern. The scholarship honors Dr. Webb's parents. His father, Joe W. Webb, taught chemistry at Northwestern for 20 years before moving into an administrative role. Dr. Webb announced the establishment of the endowed scholarship at a party for NSU alumni held in his hometown of Haynesville. Shown from left are Narvis Almand Webb, Dr. Randall J. Webb and Brenda Webb.

You have heard the saying "All I ever needed to know, I learned in kindergarten." Well, all George Olivier ever needed to know, he says he learned at Northwestern State University. Not exactly, but Olivier did latch on to a very valuable, yet simple, thing during his time at NSU.

## George Olivier

"Northwestern taught me how to think," says the 1965 graduate. "That has been key in helping me establish and maintain somewhat of a successful business." Olivier says that lesson has helped him not only in dealing with customers for the last 32 years, but also in designing some very complicated pieces. The Louisiana native has owned Olivier's Cypress Furniture since 1965.

Ironically, Olivier chose to major in agriculture at NSU because of a sparked interest in that field. Even more unusual was his request to the head of the department, Dr. Ralph V. Fell. "I told Dr. Fell that when I came to school, I want to live on a farm. When I got there, there was a shack by the NSU Horse Barn that became my home. Actually, they stored eggs in it. It had nothing, no air, no heat, no running water." Olivier found a door and put it on some egg crates to make a bed. He says when his dad saw it, he almost fainted. "I tended to the chickens and gardens at NSU which would now be considered work study. I traded eggs with the grounds people in exchange for plumbing and heat. I never did have a phone or t.v. I was paid 50 cents an hour and I paid \$50 dollars a semester to live in 'the shack'."

Olivier doesn't regret that decision or the one to major in agriculture. "It gave me a great understanding about biology and a better grasp of the natural sciences. Those courses, especially biology under Dr. Buckley, made me a good worker because it taught me how step by step to isolate something, and then build it piece by piece just like putting a puzzle together. I think that's important in my line of work."

Olivier's artistic ability was first noticed by Dr. Will Pierson, a Natchitoches native and father of Northwestern's Director of Alumni Development, Elise James.

"Olivier's dad had been following me around and saw some of my work even before I graduated from NSU. In 1964, he asked me to build an altar for Father John Cun-



ningham when the Father was getting ordained." With plans from the church that he redesigned and the use of Dr. Pierson's shop, he nervously set out to make the altar. The project was finished in two weeks and became a common sight to worshipers for 14 years following that.

It wasn't long after Pierson suggested to Olivier that he go into business for himself. In January of 1965, he opened his woodworking business at his first location in Mr. J.R. Hall's shop on the riverbank downtown, next to the Natchitoches Parish Library. "I rented it for \$17.50 a month and all it had in it was a lightbulb and a couple of machines. Occasionally, I built something, but mostly, I repaired and refinished. Today, Olivier is in his third location which contains over 30 machines, many handmade, and much more than a single lightbulb. The shop, established in 1967, is located at 115 Second Street and houses his 3,000 square foot workshop in back and a showroom up front displaying some of his finest pieces. He is planning a fourth move to an even bigger location sometime this year or next.

Although he can build just about anything anyone wants, he specializes in bedrooms, dining rooms and office furniture. When asked what piece he is most proud of, he doesn't hesitate in saying his Cloverleaf Mallard Bed, an empire bed that stands nine and a half feet tall. "It took me 29 years to build. I had refinished one for Beth Cloutier and she said 'If you could build this, you would be good.'" That was challenge enough for Olivier, although he didn't actually set out to build one until 20 years later. "I always wondered if I could do it. It took nine years to get the tools and the procedure perfected." He has made three so far.

He is equally as proud of a Country Empire Chair for which he had to design special machinery to build.





"Someone ask me to build a chair, and as I began doing it, I realized certain things had to be certain ways and eventually it developed into a real nice chair that is a combination of Empire style and Country style." Olivier is in the process of completing orders for 50 chairs.

There is history in the furniture Olivier designs. From his early branding iron signatures stamped on various pieces, to the Louisiana style that is depicted in all that he creates. "Nobody has a Louisiana look like we do. My furniture is a combination of early Louisiana like Shaker plus Empire all made of cypress and brush finished."

"I'm not monetarily successful, but professionally, I am very happy," said Olivier. "It has been worth it. People ask me when am I going to retire and I say 'What are you talking about?, I have no intention of ever retiring'."

Olivier says Northwestern taught him how to think and his father taught him to be the best at whatever he did. The combination of the two has meant a business that has outlasted competitors from all over for over three decades.



'31 Elsie Nelson Bumgardner is a retired teacher living in Bossier City, Louisiana. She has one child.

'35 Roberta Pelham Bishop is a retired teacher and lives in Fort Worth, Texas.

'39 Clyde Woods is a semi-retired consulting engineer. He is married, lives in University Place, Washington and has four children.

'42 Hazel LeBlanc Haby lives in Houston, Texas. She is retired and has two children.

'42 Florence Buckelew Knapp is married to Lloyd Knapp (class of '40) and they live in San Diego, California. She retired after 40

years of elementary teaching from LaSalle Parish School Board in Jena, Louisiana. They have two children.

'43 Marcile Culpepper England is a retired school lunch manager from East Baton Rouge School Board in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

'43 Theophile Scott lives in Natchitoches, Louisiana. He is president of the Natchitoches Genealogical & Historical Association.

'44 Mack Stewart, Jr. is married to Wilma Conlay Stewart (class of '44) and they live in Zachary, Louisiana. He is the pastor at Second Baptist Church in Jackson, Louisiana and she is a retired teacher. They have three children.

'47 Floy Moody Smith is married and lives in Syracuse, New York. She has three children and ten grandchildren.

'50 Fred Moore is a retired office manager from the LA Department of Veterans Affairs in Lake Charles, Louisiana. He is married and has one child.

'52 Fred Packard has three children and is a retired professor of visual arts at USL in Lafayette, Louisiana. He lives in Sunset.

'53 Braxton Ratcliff retired from General Electric in '91. He is married and lives in Ballston Lake, New York. They have four children.

'54 Mary Schwalo Rodney is married and has one child. She is a retired VA employee and lives in Gulfport, Mississippi.

'57 James (Brother) Gremillion is retired and lives in Woodville, Texas. He is married, has two children, and four grandchildren.

'57 Jerry Fullerton is married and has four children. He is a retired administrator from the Office of Family Security in Quitman, Louisiana.

'57 Floyd Horton, Jr. received his M.Ed. in '62. He lives in New Iberia, Louisiana. He is a retired sales representative with Lafayette Container Plant and also a retired teacher with 20 years of service. He has two children and three grandchildren.

'57 Doris Wilcox Moate is a retired business owner. She is married and lives in Fortuna, California. They have two children.

'59 Glynn Phillips is married and lives in Sausalito, California. He is the executive vice president of Del Monte Foods in San Francisco. They have three children.

'59 Nancy Stalder Miller is married and lives in Bryan, Texas. She is a part-time RN for ambulatory surgery care at Scott & White Clinic in College Station.

'61 Bobby Lewis is married to Neva Martinez Lewis (class of '60) and they have four children. He is retired from the Department of Agriculture and lives in Gulfport, MS.

'62 Charlie Distefano works at Texaco Inc. in Belaire, Texas. He is married and lives in Missouri City. They have two children.

'63 Dorothy Andries Morton received her M.S.N. in '79. She is married and lives in Lecompte, Louisiana. She is an associate professor of nursing at LSU in Alexandria and recently was awarded the 1997 Bolton Award for excelling in her field.

'65 Jim Weeks is superintendent of Sweeny Independent School District in Sweeny, Texas. He is married and has two children.

'67 Kenneth Baker received his M.A. in '73. He is assistant administrator of Support Services at King's Daughters Hospital in Brookhaven, Mississippi. He is married and has two children.

'68 Kevin Crowe is married to Mary Bernard Crowe (class of '68) and they have two children. He is group vice president of American Express Financial Advisors Inc. in Charlotte, North Carolina.

'69 David Centanni is a sales manager for Laserscope. He has two children and lives in Houston, Texas.

'70 William (Bill) Baldwin is branch manager at GMAC in Lake Charles, Louisiana. He is married to Jan Dobson Baldwin (class of '70) and they have two children.



For Frank Caperton, the fringe benefits of life in journalism are simple: if you stay in the profession long enough you have a chance to learn a lot about a lot. That, plus no two days are ever the same. Those are his findings from a 35-year span as a journalist and it's the reason he went that route to begin with.

## Frank Caperton

"I chose journalism because it was a profession that would enable me to go through life as a generalist," said Caperton, a 1962 NSU graduate who is now executive editor and vice president for news at the Indianapolis Star/Indianapolis News. "Everything else seemed to point to specialization. My interests were broad, and journalism then, and now, enables me to be a student in many areas."

It was as a student in the early 1960's that Caperton actually began developing his skills as a journalist. He was elected editor of *The Current Sauce* by fellow students. And it was also during this time that professors such as Dick Payne, John Merrill and Roland Grass helped influence his life and his career. Perhaps no one influenced him most as the women he met in his freshman English class: Elizabeth Moreland of Haughton, whom he later married while both were still students at Northwestern.

"Those were wonderful years," said Caperton. "I remember picketing a John Birch Society program that was held off-campus after my term as editor of the newspaper. I also remember having a thousand cups of coffee at the Rendezvous Cafe and one time I bounced a \$1 check there."

Caperton graduated from NSU with a bachelor's

degree in journalism and political science and shortly afterwards left Natchitoches with his wife, by way of train, to travel to Richmond, Va. in order for him to take a job reporting with the *Richmond News Leader*. In 1964, Caperton left to pursue his master's degree in journalism at Columbia University. From there, his travels included a move in June of 1965 to the *St. Petersburg Times* as a reporter and to the *Tampa Tribune* as state capital correspondent in 1967.

His career spiraled to include the *Miami Herald*, the *Telegraph and News* in Macon, Ga., the *Virginian-Pilot* in Norfolk, Va., and the *Ledger-Star*. Caperton moved to Indianapolis in 1984 as managing editor of the *Indianapolis News*, a position he held for six years. He then went on to a six-year stint as managing editor of the *Indianapolis Star* before becoming executive editor in September 1995 when the two news staffs merged.

In thinking back to some of the biggest news events he has covered, Caperton says it is difficult to narrow down the list. "As a reporter in Florida, I covered a race for governor and a race for the U.S. Senate. I also covered a national political convention. Here in Indianapolis, I covered the NCAA Final Four Tournament. We covered Dan Quayle's run for vice president and his service as vice president. One of the joys of this profession is that each new day brings exciting new stories."

Caperton and his wife have two children, Catherine Elizabeth and Robert Harrell. His plans are to enjoy his work and his colleagues for a few more years and then enjoy retirement, which he will spend in Indianapolis.

He does have some advice for future journalists. "Have a passion for the craft and do remember to have fun."





'70 Michael Crooke is married to Patricia Stilley Crooke (class of '70) and they live in Slidell, Louisiana. They have two children. He is a Naval science instructor at Pearl River High School.

'70 Cynthia Vige is a supervisor at Northside High School and the Health-Center at Our Lady of Lourdes Regional Medical Center in Lafayette, Louisiana.

'70 Ronald Spiller is married to Kay Jones Spiller (attended '68-'70) and they live in Edinboro, Pennsylvania. He is assistant professor of history at Edinboro University and also a colonel in the U.S. Army Reserve. They have two children (twins).

'71 Robert Miller is program manager for the Louisiana Department of Education in Ville Platte, Louisiana. He is married and has three children.

'71 Sharon Parker Monk has one child and one grandchild. She is a speech pathologist at Rehab Works in Branson, Missouri.

'71 Charlotte Marler Stott is married and lives in Fair Oaks, California. She is senior vice president and national sales manager for London Pacific Life & Annuity Co. in Sacramento, California.

'72 Michael Ramsey is married, has one child, and lives in Ruston, Louisiana. He is a professor of clinical laboratory science at Northeast University in Monroe.

'72 Donald McGehee owns an insurance agency, Don McGehee & Associates, in Dallas, Texas. He has one child and lives in Carrollton.

'73 Janet McCrary Sparkman is married, has two children, and lives in Wolfville, Nova Scotia. She is a part owner and retail interior decorator with Homestyles of the Valley.

'74 Benjamin Carter received his M.Ed. in '78. He is the senior vice president of Manufacturer's

Association of Northwest Penn. in Erie, Penn. He is married to Gwyn Salter Carter (class of '73) and they have two children.

'74 James Odenwelder lives in Georgetown, South Carolina. He is retired.

'75 Dr. Lucie Savoie Elfervig received the Doctor of Nursing Science degree from Louisiana State University Medical Center in New Orleans in 1996. She is an independent ophthalmic nurse consultant in Memphis, Tennessee. She and her husband live in Germantown. They have four children.

'75 Billy Leone, Jr. is an application programmer for IBM Global Services in Tampa, Florida. He is married and lives in Lutz. They have four children.

'75 Jesse Nobles, Jr. is with the Department of the Army, Fort Lee, Virginia. He is a logistics management specialist. He lives in Chesterfield.

'76 James Bolton is a counselor at Success/Insite Counseling in Bossier City, Louisiana. He is married and has two children.

'76 Bill Hochstetler has been named a partner in Jones Financial Cos. and operates a Jones branch office in Thibodaux, Louisiana. He is married and has one child.

'77 Valerie Andrews is magazine editor of Spectrum Unlimited Inc. in New Orleans, Louisiana.

'77 Betty Pace Pope is married, has three children, and five grandchildren. She is retired and lives in New Braunfels, Texas.

'78 Rose Sliman Peterson is a buyer (gifts and flower shops) for Rosepine Family Pharmacy in Rosepine, Louisiana. She is married, has two children, and they live in DeRidder.

'78 Pamela Locke is an account manager at World Color in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

'78 Emile Williams, Jr. is married, has two children, and lives in Boyce, Louisiana. He is a soil scientist for the Department of Agriculture and Forestry in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

'80 Bill Culbert is married and has two children. He is a training specialist with the government in Danville, Virginia.

'80 Laura Lord Smith is currently working on her Masters and lives in Simpson, Louisiana. She is the chief nursing officer at Byrd Regional Hospital in Leesville. She is married and has three children.

'81 Clevon Self has four children. He is a DP programmer for St. Mary Parish School Board in Centerville, Louisiana. He lives in New Iberia.

'82 Archie Anderson received his M.A. in '85. He is married, has three children and they live in Allen, Texas. He is regional vice president at GENEX Services in Dallas.

'82 Josie Prudhomme Hamilton is a social service counselor at Natchitoches Alcohol & Drug Abuse Clinic in Natchitoches, Louisiana. She is married and has two children.

'82 Gary Fields is a national reporter for USA Today, a Gannett owned newspaper in Washington, D.C. He has been with the paper for six years covering events such as Hurricane Andrew, the New York subway shootings, and the World Trade Center Bombing. He is credited with breaking the story on the church burnings in the southern U.S. and for that, he won several awards and was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize, which he placed in the top 10 in the Public Service Category. He was selected as Journalist of the Year by the National Association of Professional Journalists and awarded the 1997 Unity Award. He and his wife have a daughter.

'84 Phillip Hale received his M.Ed. in '88. He is married to Sandy Mitchell Hale (class of '83) and they live

in Kilgore, Texas. He is head football coach at Kilgore College. They have three children.

'84 Sharon Claussen Croteau is an RN at Personacare in Shreveport, Louisiana. She lives in Haughton.

'84 Kevin Bartholomew is married and has two children. He was recently promoted to general manager at the Dallas branch of Ben E. Keith Beers.

'85 Brenda Fowler lives in Natchitoches, Louisiana. She is records analyst coordinator in the Registrar's office at Northwestern State University.

'85 Jesse Jimerson joined the Navy in '78. He is a Navy petty officer 1st class at the Naval Air Station in Meridian, Mississippi.

'85 Jon Mouser is from Shreveport, Louisiana. He is a field safety coordinator and H2S specialist for SEC-ORP Industries & Environmental Technology in Ventura, California.

'85 Edgar Johnson is married to Rhonda Henderson Johnson (class of '87) and they live in Matthews, North Carolina. He is a DC-9 airline pilot for U.S. Airways in Charlotte. They have one child.

'85 Virginia Benninghoff Norris is a trainer/instructor at Norris Training Center in Farmersville, Texas. She is married.

'87 Flo McDonald is married and they live in Grand Cane, Louisiana. She is a travel RN for 13 states. She wrote and published a book in '97 titled "Nurses Guide to Travel." She has two children and two grandchildren.

'87 Mark Skains is a medical practice administrator for Surgical Associates in Decatur, Alabama. He is married.

'87 Melanie Lea Birck is married and lives in Flagstaff, Arizona. She is an information resource specialist at Northern Arizona University.



Scanning the accomplishments of Northwestern State University graduate Greg Ashlock is not an easy task even though the Texas native is only 28-years old. In fact, it may seem impossible for someone who has lived such a short life to have accomplished such a great deal. But, excelling seems to be a way of life for Ashlock.

## Greg Ashlock

The 1991 NSU graduate was valedictorian of Cross Roads High School in Malakoff, Texas with a 4.0 GPA. From that point forward, attaining a perfect 4.0 was a tradition Ashlock never broke. Neither as a graduate of Trinity Valley Community College in Athens, Texas or NSU, or the Annenberg School For Communication at the University of Southern California. Ashlock was one of only two students out of 100 to graduate with distinction from the prestigious journalism school.

But good grades aren't the only things on Ashlock's most impressive list. He accumulated a number of extra-curricular accomplishments both in high school and college that included Student Council President, varsity and college basketball team captain, basketball MVP honors and Student Body President.

With a resume stacked like Ashlock's, it is no wonder he now serves as the Corporate Accounts Manager with the Los Angeles Dodgers. It is a job that allows him to incorporate his academic qualifications while linking him directly to a sport he loves so much.

"This is my dream profession," said Ashlock. "I have always wanted to work in sports and the Dodgers are a class organization."

Ashlock came to Northwestern on a full scholarship to play basketball. He says his reasons for choosing NSU were simple. "The university was large enough to offer the academic benefits of a major university and small enough to maintain that *personal touch*," said Ashlock.

While at NSU, Ashlock pursued a journalism degree with an emphasis in public relations. His fondest memories include dorm life with football games in the court-

yard, late night study sessions with pizza and Coke at 3 a.m. and group projects in Tommy Whitehead's public relations class. "Generally speaking, the small town atmosphere of NSU and Natchitoches helped foster close relationships with other students and faculty that would not have otherwise developed," said Ashlock.

In the months leading up to his graduation, Ashlock began playing the field, so to speak, for job opportunities. He sent resumes to almost two dozen major league baseball teams since the sport was the only one in season at the time. "The Dodgers and the Orioles both showed some interest, but required a personal interview. So, I packed up my car and headed to California." Ashlock decided if that interview didn't work out, he would chalk it up as a vacation and head to Baltimore.

The job, although seasonal, was his first break into the working world. "I worked in the Community Affairs Department writing scripts for pregame ceremonies, planning player appearances, implemented a Community Heroes Program and worked on charitable tie-ins," said Ashlock.

The lessons Ashlock learned from that job were

“invaluable. “For starters, I learned that a graduate degree was critical for climbing the corporate ladder.” With that in mind, Ashlock enrolled in Annenberg.

Following graduation from Annenberg, he accepted a position as a Corporate Sales Representative with The Dodgers. He has since become the Corporate Accounts Manager with the team. “My main responsibility is to generate revenue for the ballclub through corporate sponsorships by developing proposals, negotiating deals and drafting contracts.

The deals range from \$50,000 to several million dollars.”

“I have built a strong base of knowledge as it relates to sports marketing and have made good contacts along the way. With this in mind, I am sure that many doors for opportunity will be opened as I continue my career in the sports industry.”

Ashlock and his wife, Becky, have three children and live in the Los Angeles suburb of Valencia. On top of caring for his family and working long hours, Ashlock finds time to teach a marketing course once a week at a local university and coaches Little League.

*The university was large enough to offer the academic benefits of a major university and small enough to maintain that personal touch*

...Greg Ashlock



'87 Leslie Gregory received her M.A. in '94. She is assistant director of NSU Programs for the Gifted & Talented and adjunct instructor of art with the Creative & Performing Arts Department.

'87 Yvette Jordan Harrell is married, has two children and they live in Shreveport, Louisiana. She is a graduate student at NSU College of Nursing in Shreveport.

'88 Andrew Adams lives in Suwannee, Georgia. He is the manager of ABI in Cumming.

'88 Marcileno Reed is a visiting instructor at the University of Arkansas in Monticello, Arkansas. He lives in Crossett.

'88 Scotty Goins is married to Michele Jeane Goins (class of '95), they have one child, and live in Anacoco, Louisiana. He is an engineer technician for Federal Civil Service in Fort Polk, Louisiana. She is an elementary teacher at West Leesville Elementary.

'88 Anthony Wann is a contracting officer at the Rome Laboratory (USAF) in Rome, New York. He is married and has one child.

'89 Darlene Desonier Williams received her M.Ed. in '94. She is married, has three children, and they live in Florien, Louisiana. She is a title I facilitator at Florien Elementary School.

'89 Jason Tinsley received his M.Ed. in Sports Administration from NSU in May 1997. He is married to Sonia Cox Tinsley (attended '87-'89) and they live in Natchitoches. He is an assistant men's basketball coach at Northwestern.

'90 Chris Carter is married to Liz Bonnette Carter (class of '91) and they live in Brookeland, Texas. He is an athletic director at Spurger ISD in Spurger. They have two children.

'90 Terri Steadman Cedars is an instructor/coordinator of JTPA GED program at Louisiana Technical

College in Natchitoches, Louisiana. She is married and has three children.

'90 Marine Staff Sgt. Daniel Dupre was recently promoted to his present rank while serving with 2nd Battalion, 14th Marines, 4th Marine Division, Joliet, IL.

'90 Alan Hardin is married to Shelia Sampite Hardin (class of '91) and they live in Lewisville, Texas. He is a credit analyst at Nissan Motor Acceptance Corporation and a troop commander for Apache Attack Helicopter Squadron.

'90 Melissa Frank Alston is married and lives in State College, Pennsylvania. She is director of Volunteer Programs & Services and is a doctorate student in Workforce Education & Development at Penn State University.

'91 Candace Mastillo Bankovich is an attorney for Leagle & Barnes in Indianapolis, Indiana. She is married.

'91 Jeffrey Howard is married, has one child, and lives in Shreveport, Louisiana. He is a financial/operational auditor for Caddo Parish School Board.

'91 Melissa Porteous Cruse is a senior media planner/buyer with The Graham Group in Metairie, Louisiana. She is married.

'91 Gregory Book is married to Jonnette Eitel Book (class of '88) and they have one child. He is a senior process engineer at Intel-Portland Technology Development in Hillsboro, Oregon.

'91 Shelia Sampite Hardin is manager of mutual fund telephone operations for Fidelity Investments in Dallas, Texas. She is married to Alan Hardin (class of '90) and they live in Lewisville, Texas.

'91 Kimberly Dowden Hopkins is currently pursuing her M.B.A. She is the director of public relations at Columbus Cancer Clinic in Columbus, Ohio. She is married and they live in Pickerington.

'91 William Johnson lives in Groves, Texas. He is a waterfowl and wetlands biologist for Texas Parks and the Wildlife Department in Port Arthur.

'91 Rhonda Ross received the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree in May 1997 from Tuskegee University School of Veterinary Medicine, Tuskegee, Alabama.

'92 David Clark is a business and tax attorney with Scofield, Gerard and Veron in Lake Charles, Louisiana. He has one child.

'92 Robert Greer received his M.A. in '94. He is president of Einstein Digital Media in Broussard, Louisiana. He lives in Lafayette.

'92 Dawn Etheridge Rogers is married and has two children. She is an RN supervisor at Central Management Co. in Winnfield, Louisiana.

'92 Lisa Ward is engaged and lives in Alexandria, Louisiana. She is a certified public accountant with Cleco, Inc. in Pineville.

'92 Alan Omo received his M.A. in '94. He is married to Stacey Taff Omo (class of '92) and they live in Poquoson, Virginia. He is a USAF officer at Langley Air Force Base.

'92 Stacey Taff Omo received her M.A. in '94. She is a historical interpreter at Colonial Williamsburg in Williamsburg, Virginia. She is married to Alan Omo (class of '92) and they live in Poquoson.

'93 John Kegans is married to Kimen Stewart Kegans (class of '93) and they live in Tampa, Florida. He is a sales representative at J. M. Tull Metals. She is a financial analyst at Eckerd Drug.

'93 Natalie Neugent is a band director at Young Junior High School in Arlington, Texas.

'93 June Beech Gann is a reading specialist at Dzith Na O Dith Hle Community School in Nageezi, New

Mexico. She is married and has two children.

'93 Thomas Koss is an operations specialist for Laboratory Corporation of America in Brentwood, Tennessee. He lives in Nashville.

'93 Dennis Stone is married, has one child, and lives in Dry Prong, Louisiana. He is a technical representative at Honeywell/Measurex in Pineville.

'93 Kelly Kingrey Johnson is married and lives in Norwich, Connecticut. She is an assistant librarian at the USN Sub. Base Library in Groton.

'93 Mary Jordan is an RN at LSU Medical Center in Shreveport, Louisiana.

'93 Barry Lamonda, Jr. is married and has two children. He is an author/illustrator for Wormsly The Worm Books in Chico, California.

'93 Richard Landry is a petroleum landman with Louisiana Oil & Gas in Lafayette, Louisiana and is also attending law school in Baton Rouge. He is married.

'93 Jennifer Lee Kelly is married, has two children and they live in West Monroe, Louisiana. She teaches 4th grade at Southside Elementary School in Bastrop.

'93 Marsha Crnkovic is an RN at Willis Knighton Medical Center in Shreveport, Louisiana. She has one child.

'93 Mary Janway Dykes is married and has three children. She is a word processor operator II for Probation & Parole in Natchitoches, Louisiana.

'93 Kathryn Allen Fulton is a management systems analyst at Omega Environmental Services in Lakeland, Florida. She is married to Charles Fulton (class of '93) and they have one child.

'93 Charles Fulton is married to Kathryn Allen Fulton (class of '93) and he is the director of bands at Kathleen High School in



Lakeland, Florida. They have one child.

'93 Alicia Comby Richie has two children and lives in Clute, Texas. She is a Spanish teacher at Clute Intermediate School.

'93 Jennifer Poe Umphress received her J.D. in '96. She is married and lives in Arlington, Texas.

'94 Linda Boswell Bordelon is married to Jules Bordelon (class of '66) and they live in Moreauville, Louisiana. She is a grants coordinator for the Avoyelles Parish School Board in Marksville. They have two children.

'94 Susan Bowman lives in Bossier City, Louisiana. She is an RN at ARK-LA-TEX Cardiologist in Shreveport.

'94 Laurie Coco is an accounting manager at Avoyelles Hospital in Marksville, Louisiana.

'94 Edwina Cedars Hayward is married and has two children. She is an intake coordinator for Natchitoches Parish Hospital Senior Care Unit in Natchitoches, Louisiana.

'94 Jennifer Leigh Lawrence is a training coordinator at Ford Housing Finance Services in Dallas, Texas.

'94 James Jett is a first lieutenant in the US Army stationed at Fort Huachuca, Arizona. He is married.

'94 Tiawan Lynch is teaching 4th grade at Walnut Hill Elementary/Middle School in Shreveport, Louisiana. She is also attending graduate school at Centenary College.

'94 Sarah Ashley Peterson lives in College Station, Texas. She is a law enforcement training specialist at Phoebe's Home-Battered Women's Shelter in Bryan.

'94 Janice Belgard Miller is married and lives in Alexandria, Louisiana. She is a recreation therapist at Central LA State Hospital in Pineville.

'94 Pamela Bates Whitekkin is a special education teacher at Curtsinger Elementary School in Frisco, Texas. She has three children and one grandchild.

'95 Jamie St. Pe' is a first grade teacher at Raceland Lower Elementary School in Raceland, Louisiana.

'95 Ayesha Kennedy lives in Decatur, Georgia. She is an Ameri Corps volunteer at the Ashford-Dunwoody YMCA and she tutors elementary students in math and English at High Point Elementary in Atlanta.

'95 Jennifer Rowland was a graduate of LA Scholars' College. She lives in Marrero, Louisiana and is a teaching assistant-graduate student in the English Masters Program at the University of New Orleans.

'95 Sean Huggins has one child and lives in Enterprise, Alabama. He is a second lieutenant/pilot with US Army Aviation at Ft. Rucker.

'95 Robert Morgan, Jr. is the owner of Life Plus Personal Fitness Training in Mobile, Alabama.

'95 Ramona Reed-Chism is married to Torrance Chism (attended NSU) and they live in El Paso, Texas. She is a battery executive officer with the US Army at Ft. Bliss.

'95 Ruth Nash Brumley is married, has two children, and lives in Leesville, Louisiana. She is a payroll administrator for Amerisafe in DeRidder.

'95 Alicia Cousins is a pediatric respiratory therapist at Ochsner Foundation Hospital in New Orleans, Louisiana.

'95 Jennifer Foster lives in Atlanta, Louisiana. She is an accounting manager at Winn Parish Medical Center in Winnfield.

'95 Blaine Gibson is married and has one child. He is a technical engineer for Honeywell in Monroe, Louisiana.

'95 Sontonia Helaire has one child. She is the secretary at Red River Sanitors in Natchitoches, Louisiana.

'95 Tiffany Smith Larza is married and lives in Watauga, Texas. She is a veterinary technician for the Fossil Creek Animal Clinic in Fort Worth.

'95 Rhonda Briggs Marcantel is married to Thomas Marcantel (class of '96) and they live in Farmers Branch, Texas. She is a staff accountant at Image Net Associates in Dallas.

'95 Kip Patrick has been promoted to account executive in the New York Media Services Group of Hill and Knowlton.

'95 Andy Steczo is married to Kristina Steczo (class of '96) and they have two children. He is an ICU staff nurse with the U.S. Navy in Pensacola, Florida.

'95 Sheryl Frederick Walter is married and has one child. She is an admission technician in the Registrar's office at Northwestern State University in Natchitoches, Louisiana.

'96 Danielle Brunet lives in Cut Off, Louisiana. She is a second grade teacher at Holy Rosary Catholic School in Larose.

'96 Deborah Cook is married and has one child. She is an RN at Columbia Highland Hospital in Shreveport, Louisiana.

'96 Janelle Hornsby Doescher is married and lives in Leesville, Louisiana. She is an eighth grade life science teacher at Leesville Junior High School.

'96 Antoinette Tomany Harris is married and lives in Fort Polk, Louisiana. She is a third grade teacher at S. Polk Elementary School.

'96 Carla Parker Howell and her husband live in Natchitoches, Louisiana. They have two children. She is the grants, contracts and restricted accounts manager in the Business Affairs office at Northwestern.

'96 Shelly Murphy is a flight attendant for Northwest Airlines in Minneapolis/St. Paul, Minnesota.

'96 Brad Thibodaux is a field editor for the Louisiana Fish & Game Finder in Houma, Louisiana.

'96 Monica Dugas is a preschool teacher at Regina Coeli Child Development Center in Lacombe, Louisiana. She lives in Covington.

'96 Melanie Porter lives in Mansfield, Louisiana. She is a preschool and kindergarten teacher at The Montessori School for Shreveport.

## Deceased

'18 Alice Livaudais Pipes, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, December 28, 1996.

'31 Frank L. Muller, Dry Creek, Louisiana, July 17, 1996.

'31 Gale G. Hammond, Haslet, Texas, January 22, 1997.

'31 Lucy May Hudson Windham, Alexandria, Louisiana, January 29, 1997.

'46 Ralph E. Butler, Shreveport, Louisiana, April 20, 1996.

'49 Beatrice A. Noonan, Shreveport, Louisiana, November 23, 1996.

'49 Rosalyn Merritt Cagle, Lake Charles, Louisiana, March 8, 1997.

'52 Lelia Elizabeth (Betty) Millspaugh Horton, New Iberia, Louisiana, March 2, 1997.

'59 Margaret D. Porto, Alexandria, Louisiana, February 11, 1997.



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#### NSU ALUMNI OFFICERS

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Arcadia, 1969  
1st Vice President.....Parker Wiggins  
Monroe, 1941  
Secretary-Treasurer.....Elise James  
Natchitoches, 1968  
Executive Director.....Elise James  
Natchitoches, 1968

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Tommy Chester.....Arcadia, 1969  
Danny Dison.....Bossier City, 1969  
Glenn Talbert.....Shreveport, 1964  
Carroll Long.....Tyler, TX 1970  
Dale Bernard.....Lake Charles, 1972  
David Morgan.....Austin, TX, 1973  
Ginger Wiggins.....Jackson, MS, 1987  
Bryant Lewis.....Haynesville, 1958  
Parker Wiggins.....Monroe, 1941  
Adrian Howard.....Arlington TX, 1989  
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The Alumni Columns is published in  
spring, summer, fall and winter.

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It is the policy of Northwestern State University of Louisiana not to discriminate on the bases of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, or disability in its educational programs, activities or employment practices as required by Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967, the Equal Pay Act of 1963, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Executive Order 11246, Sections 503 and Section 504 of the rehabilitation Act of 1973 and Section 402 of the Vietnam Era Veterans Readjustment Assistance Act of 1974.

## Alumni Information Update

Please fill this page out as completely as possible. We are constantly revising our records and your information updates are vital to making the system work. The information from this form is also used for entries in the "Class Notes" section. Please make a copy of this page and give it to any NSU graduate who may not be on our list. We can't keep in touch with you if we can't find you! Thank you.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ SSN: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Last First Middle Maiden

NSU Undergraduate Degree(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Year(s): \_\_\_\_\_

NSU Graduate Degree(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Year(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Years Attended NSU: \_\_\_\_\_

Organizations involved with at NSU: \_\_\_\_\_

Current Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Place of Employment  
or Business: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Job Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Marital Status: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse NSU Graduate? \_\_\_\_\_ Year: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
First Maiden Last

Number of Children: \_\_\_\_\_ Ages: \_\_\_\_\_

Please send me information about the following:

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Natchitoches, LA 71497



## The Total Ticket: A Revolutionary Deal for Demon Sports Fans

An exciting opportunity has been created for Northwestern sports supporters to attend all of the university's home athletic events at an incredibly discounted price.

It's called "The Total Ticket." At \$100 each, it admits the bearer to every home pre-season and regular season athletic event in 1997-98. Considering there should be about 85 home events, "The Total Ticket" is a tremendous deal for Demon sports fans.

"The Total Ticket" will be on sale during the summer and early fall leading into the football season.

Greg Burke, Northwestern's first-year athletic director, has developed "The Total Ticket" because many fans have asked for it.

"It's one-stop shopping for our supporters," he said. "With The Total Ticket, you get a whole year's worth of Northwestern sports at a bargain price. It will get fans into all of our sports events for less than it would have cost them this year to buy individual season tickets for football and basketball games."

Creating a discount deal for Demon fans is key strategy as Burke tries to increase attendance and revenue in athletics.

"Like every athletic program, NSU wants to have good crowds at our home events. At the most elemental stage, it's the old concept of 'the more, the merrier.' Bigger crowds motivate our players and coaches and have a more positive impact on our university and the surrounding community," he said.

From the business perspective, we want to increase ticket sales and generate revenue. We want to give fans with such a package the opportunity to accomplish that



*Northwestern sports fans can attend all home events in 1997-98 at a bargain price by purchasing the "Total Ticket".*

Meeting a goal of 1,000 sales of "The Total Ticket," Burke said, will allow the athletic department to accomplish much more than generating much-needed revenue. Department personnel won't have to spend as much time throughout the year trying to secure renewals and new sales of season tickets for each sport.

That will give Burke's staff time to focus on fan satisfaction and event management.

"We can concentrate primarily on service to our fans and enhancing the home game atmosphere," he said. "We want our fans to be our best advertisements for prospective new fans."

Along with having a ticket to every game at home, fans who buy "The Total Ticket" will receive special benefits. While the complete package was in its final stages of development, those benefits are sure to include access to invitation-only gatherings

and a special newsletter throughout the year.

A crucial element in the plan is convincing existing football season ticket holders to buy into "The Total Ticket" concept.

"Our football season ticket base is comprised of loyal supporters, many who probably attend more than enough of our other sporting events throughout the year to make this investment a bargain for them," he said. "We want these people to buy 'The Total Ticket' and be the trendsetters."

"There also are many, many loyal Northwestern supporters who have never been asked to purchase a season ticket. We're providing them the most economical deal possible and asking them to make a yearlong commitment at an affordable rate."

For information on "The Total Ticket," contact the NSU Athletic Ticket Office at 318-357-4268.





